

April 10, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, would Senator Schmit yield to a couple of questions?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I will, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Senator Schmit, in real quick reading of this thing, it would appear that what you're saying is, that if I'm a retail grocer, I must pay for any meat I buy, from a packing house, within 72 hours from the actual time of shipment. Is that correct?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is right.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I first of all don't know how you're going to determine what time, for example, if I am a shipper, excuse me I'm sorry, I as a retailer am going to determine when they shipped the merchandise. That could be any hour of a two or three leeway after I order the merchandise. But also, from what you're providing here, it would mean that if you want to shut off purchases of meat from within the state of Nebraska, this is one of the surest ways you can do it. For example, if I'm a retailer and I don't want to have to buy or pay for meat from whatever this time is, 72 hours from that time, which I'm unable to determine, all I have to do is start my meat from from Kansas, Iowa, South Dakota, wherever I want to order it from that does not have this. You're going to curtail the sale of meat within this state. The people are going to have to ship meat from Nebraska over into Iowa so they in turn can sell it back to retailers in Nebraska. Could you explain, for example, how you're going to get around that type of thing?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, Senator Goodrich, first of all let me explain that Nebraska is a major meat processing state. You have raised an issue which the committee discussed thoroughly, this issue was discussed thoroughly at the meeting in Kansas City when the several states, representatives of the Legislatures gathered, it was determined at that time that, and I have agreed that we will be willing to delay to operative date of this act to a time that would coincide with similar dates in surrounding states. Secondly, you refer to Kansas and South Dakota, there isn't enough meat packed in either of those states to hardly supply any major food retailer. The bulk of the meat packing is done in these states, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Texas and in some cases, Oklahoma. Those are the major meat packing states. Those states were all represented at the meeting we held in Kansas City. We recognize, and I think you will agree, that it is a national problem. A problem that should be dealt with on the federal level and it was for that reason that we gathered at the conference in Kansas City and had the discussions that we did have which resulted in unity in thinking on all of these bills. Because of the fact, and this is the only bill, Senator Goodrich, which we feel there is a problem involved in regard to the prompt payment. In other bills, I believe, we can deal with effectively on the state level, but because of the fact that there may be a problem with this bill, we did draft the resolution as a backup item. But I would hope that this body will abide by the decisions of the Ag Committee of this state and the representatives of the surrounding states, and advance the bill. Before it reaches Final Reading, I will be willing to